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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Mark S. Svat
Fay, Sharp, Fagan,
Minnich & McKee, LLP
1100 Superior Avenue, 7th Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114-2518

EXAMINER

CUNNINGHAM, GREGORY F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2676

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2003

[Handwritten signature]

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

[Handwritten signature]

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/056,560

Applicant(s)

SAUND ET AL.

Examiner

Greg Cunningham

Art Unit

2676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8,12 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2676

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications of application filed 1/25/2002.
2. The disposition of the claims is as follows: claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 13 and 16 are independent claims.
3. The group and/or Art Unit location of your application has changed. To aid in the correlation of any papers for this application, all further correspondence should be directed to Group Art Unit 2676 (effective 9/03). Please be sure to use the most current art unit number on all correspondence to help us route your case and respond to you in a timely fashion.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

5. Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13, 14 and 16-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being disclosed by Omura et al., (PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20030069931), hereafter Omura.
 - A. Claim 1, “1. An image analysis and conversion method [para. 0111] comprising: receiving a bitmapped image; and converting the bitmapped image into structured object representations of the bitmapped image [para. 0218 - 0219], which are editable by a structured text/graphics editor [para. 0076]” is disclosed as [detailed supra] and in [para. 0084] and [para. 0087].

Art Unit: 2676

(Examiner's note: "analysis" in "image analysis" has no patentable weight here).

B. Claim 2, "The method according to claim 1 wherein the receiving step includes, scanning a non-electronic generated image [para. 0079 and 0120] into the bitmapped image" is disclosed supra for claim 1 and as [detailed supra].

C. Claim 3, "The method according to claim 1 wherein the bitmapped image received in the receiving step is an originally generated electronic bitmapped image" is disclosed supra for claim 1, particularly in [para. 0218].

D. Claim 4, "The method according to claim 1 wherein the converting step includes, altering the bitmapped image into multiple alternative interpretations" is disclosed supra for claim 1, particularly in [para. 0218 - 0219].

E. Claim 5, "The method according to claim 4 wherein the altering of the bitmapped image into multiple alternative interpretations includes, altering the bitmapped image into informal structured object representations that are editable by the structured text/graphics editor [para. 0178 and 0185], and altering the bitmapped image into formal structured object representations that are editable by the structured text/graphics editor" is disclosed supra for claim 4, particularly in [para. 0218 - 0219]. Wherein "hand-written character" corresponds to "informal structured object".

F. Claim 6, "The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of converting the bitmapped image into structured object representations of the bitmapped image includes configuring the structured object representations to represent an electronic slide of the structured text/graphics editor" is disclosed supra for claim 1, particularly in [para. 0085, 0092 and 0120]. Wherein "presentation software" corresponds to "electronic slide".

Art Unit: 2676

G. Claim 7, "The method according to claim 1, wherein the converting step includes forming of an Alternative graph" is disclosed supra for claim 1, particularly in [para. 0164].

H. Claim 9, "The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of converting the bitmapped image to the structured object representations includes generating multiple structured object representations of the bitmapped image, the multiple structured object representations, representing at least a first image representation having formal structured object representations, and a second image representation containing informal structured object representations" is disclosed supra for claim 1, and particularly in [para. 0218 - 0219]. Wherein "hand-written character" corresponds to "informal structured object".

I. Claim 10, "The method according to claim 1 wherein the editing by the structured text/graphics editor permits movement [para. 0102, 0103 and 0110] of structured object representations by at least one of, individual objects, a sub-group of all the structured objects, or as an overall group of the structured object representations" is disclosed supra for claim 1, and in [para. 0178, 0185 and 0218 - 0219]. Wherein "hand-written character" corresponds to "informal structured object".

J. Claim 11, "The method according to claim 1 wherein the bitmapped image is converted into the structured objects representations of the bitmapped image through the use of an Alternative Graph" is disclosed supra for claim 1, particularly in [para. 0164].

K. Per independent claims 13 and 16, these are directed to a system and image representation, respectively, for performing the method of independent claim 1, and therefore are rejected to independent claim 1.

Art Unit: 2676

L. Per dependent claim 14, this is directed to a system for performing the method of dependent claim 5 or 9, and therefore is rejected to dependent claim 5 or 9.

M. Claim 17, "The image representation according to claim 16 wherein the structured object representations are informal structured object representations, and wherein the informal structured object representations are editable to formal structured object representations" is disclosed supra for claim 16, and in [para. [0220], particularly at "In the master client, even if the "editing area" A5 is working (processing, active condition), when the master client receives the object from the slave client, the display in the "stacking area" A4 is updated almost in real-time. The conference chairman drags the file object of the URL thrown into the "stacking area" A4 and drops it near the hand-written characters of the "external research trend". Wherein "hand-written character" corresponds to "informal structured object".

N. Claim 18, "The image representation according to claim 17 wherein the alternative interpretations permit a mixing of formal structured object representations and informal structured object representations in a single image representation displayed on the computer screen" is disclosed supra for claim 17.

O. Claim 19, "The image representation according to claim 16 wherein a first structured object representation is spatially contained within a second structured object representation [para. 0178 and 0179]" is disclosed supra for claim 16 and [as detailed] supra. Wherein each page represents a different second structured object representation.

P. Claim 20, "The image representation according to claim 16 wherein a new structured object representation is added to existing structured object representations [para. 0115]" is disclosed supra for claim 16 and [as detailed] supra.

Art Unit: 2676

Q. Claim 21, “The image representation according to claim 16 wherein the structured object representations define a text block structure [para. 0082]” is disclosed supra for claim 16 and [as detailed] supra, particularly at “a coordinate detector of a light-block type capable of entering texts”.

R. Claim 22, “The image representation according to claim 21 wherein the text block structure includes a display of text parameters including at least one of text layout, text font, bullets, underlines and dummy characters [para. 0144]” is disclosed supra for claim 21 and [as detailed] supra, particularly at “selecting a smaller size character font”.

S. Claim 23, “The image representation according to claim 22 wherein the dummy characters are replaceable with target characters [para. 0144]” is disclosed supra for claim 22 and [as detailed] supra, particularly at “displaying a predetermined number of starting texts only; matching the texts with the width and displaying them folded over a plurality of lines; and selecting a smaller size character font to shrink-display them”.

T. Claim 24, “The image representation according to claim 16 wherein distinct alternative interpretations may be displayed [para. 0243]” is disclosed supra for claim 16 and [as detailed] supra. Wherein “at least two attributes” corresponds to “distinct alternate interpretations”.

U. Claim 25, “The image representation according to claim 24 wherein display of the distinct alternative interpretations is accomplished by the use of at least one of underlays, bubble or balloon images, coloring, shading transparency/translucency, defocusing, and pop-up windows [para. 0209]” is disclosed supra for claim 16 and [as detailed] supra. Wherein “attributes such colors” corresponds to one of “distinct alternate interpretations”.

Art Unit: 2676

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 8, 12 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Responses

7. Responses to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231. If applicant desires to fax a response, (703) 308-9051 may be used for formal communications or (703) 308-6606 for informal or draft communications.

Please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT" for informal facsimile communications. Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Inquiries

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greg Cunningham whose telephone number is (703) 308-6109.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella, can be reached on (703) 308-6829.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

Art Unit: 2676

(703) 872-9306 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone
number is (703) 306-0377.

J.F. Cunningham

gfc

September 17, 2003

Matthew C. Bella

MATTHEW C. BELLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600